

Remarks

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner:

(1) rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement;

(2) rejected claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement; and

(3) rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Integrated Development Enterprises' "Idprocess User Guide Release 2.1" (2/23/2000).

In response to Item 1 above, Applicants enclose duplicate copies of "Integrated Development Enterprise, Inc. *IDresources*TM (Appendix H) and pages marked "Additional Sheets" (Appendix I) for the convenience of the Examiner.

In response to Item 2 above, Applicants respectfully disagree that the terms "goal information" and "superportfolio" are not described in the specification. Applicants direct the Examiner to pages 33-37 and Fig. 11, wherein the term "goal information" is used to describe two of the six start and end dates that are tracked and stored so that the system can notify managers when current plan, goal and actual dates vary from each other. Applicants also direct the Examiner to pages 31-32 and Fig. 10, wherein the term "superportfolio" is used to describe two or more portfolios associated with another portfolio, where the portfolios inherit their tracking criteria from the superportfolio and then impose that inherited criteria on all of the projects below them.

In response to Item 3 above, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Integrated Development Enterprises' "Idprocess User Guide Release 2.1" (2/23/2000). However, in order to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicants have canceled claims 1, subject to Applicants' right to prosecute the subject matter of the claim in related future applications. Furthermore, in order to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicants have amended claim 2 to further distinguish the present invention from the prior art. Claims 3-7 remain in their original form.

Claim 2 is directed to a method for assigning resource capacity. It has now been amended to specify that capacity is assigned on a pro rata basis, according to the number of requests and the unused capacity in each resource group. Applicants believe that this feature is neither disclosed nor rendered obvious by the cited reference. In particular, the cited reference does not teach assigning capacity on the basis of the number of requests and the unused capacity in a resource group. Thus, claim 2 as amended is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 3 and 4 are also directed to methods for assigning resource capacity.

More particularly, the method of claim 3 comprises sending a list of requests for resources to a resource group manager, analyzing the requests to determine the capacity for assigning the requested resources, sending the determination of the capacity to a portfolio manager for approval, disapproval or modification, and assigning the

capacity based on the approval, disapproval or modification of the portfolio manager.

Claim 4 follows the same method, however, instead of sending the determination of capacity for assigning the requested resources to a portfolio manager for approval, disapproval or modification, the resource group manager sends a tentatively assigned capacity to the project team and then confirms the assigned capacity after the portfolio manager approves the determination.

The cited reference does not teach or render obvious a method for allowing the portfolio manager to receive the resource group manager's determination of the capacity and then approve, disapprove or modify the determination, and then assigning capacity based on the same (claim 3).

The cited reference also does not teach or render obvious a method for allowing the resource group manager to send a tentatively assigned capacity to the project team and confirm the tentatively assigned capacity after the portfolio manager approves the determination.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 3 and 4 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 5 is directed to a computer program product that causes the computer to determine the resource capacity for each resource group, determine the resource assignment for each project, analyze the resource group capacity and the project assignment, and generate a report illustrating the same. The cited reference does not describe a product that automatically determines capacity based on information entered and then assigns the project to a resource group depending on the capacity of the project and the resources

available to that resource group. Thus, claim 5 is believed to be allowable.

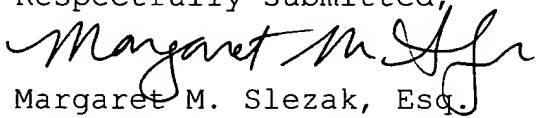
Claim 6 is directed to a computer program product that causes the computer to perform a review of data items contained in a schedule for enterprise management, including current plan information, goal information and actual information, adjustments of the current plan and actual information on a continuous basis and adjustments of goal information on a periodic basis, to compare the data items and to send a notification of any variances in the data items. The cited reference describes a way to modify items in existing portfolios but it does not describe a product that is designed to review data items contained in a schedule while automatically comparing the information and sending notifications of any variances in the data items. Thus claim 6 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 7 is directed to a computer program product that causes the computer to perform an association of at least two portfolios to create a superportfolio with tracking criteria from each of the portfolios, wherein the tracking criteria is imposed on each of the portfolios and the projects subordinate to them. As discussed above in response to Item 1, the specification further describes a superportfolio as two or more portfolios associated with another portfolio, where the portfolios inherit their tracking criteria from the superportfolio and then impose that inherited criteria on all of the projects below them. The cited reference, however, describes a way to link documents that are stored in an existing document management system into portfolios for future reference, and does not

teach a way to link separate portfolios together and impose the tracking criteria on all of the projects below them. Thus, Applicants believe that claim 7 is in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, independent claims 2-7 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

In the event that any additional fees may be required in this matter, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 16-0221.

Respectfully submitted,
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MMS/IDE-1.AMENDMENT